

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 17930 081725Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

MC-02 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 /093 W

----- 015688

R 081716Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7418

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

SECDEF

UNCLAS LONDON 17930

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, UK, SA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER SULTAN

1. SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER PRINCE SULTAN ARRIVES IN LONDON NOVEMBER 8 AND IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN, FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND, AND DEFENSE SECRETARY MULLEY. SUNDAY TIMES OF NOVEMBER 7 HAS ARTICLE BY DAVID HOLDEN (AUTHOR OF MINOR CLASSIC "FAREWELL TO ARABIA") SUGGESTING THAT IN VIEW OF RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ATTEMPT TO BLOCK SALE OF MAVERICK MISSILES TO SAUDIS, "IT WILL BE NO SURPRISE IF PRINCE SULTAN DISCREETLY HINTS TO HIS HOSTS" HERE THAT SAUDI ARABIANS ARE TEMPTED TO DIVERSIFY THEIR ARMS PURCHASES. IN FINANCIAL TIMES OF NOVEMBER 8, ITS MIDDLE EAST EDITOR, RICHARD JOHNS, REPORTS THAT COURTESY ASPECT OF VISIT, WITH RED-CARPET CEREMONIALS, IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SUBSTANTIVE ASPECT. "IT IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT BAC HAVE BEEN CHASING A CONTRACT--POSSIBLY WORTH 200 MILLION POUNDS--FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF AIR DEFENSE INFRASTRUCTURE TOGETHER WITH TRAINING OF SAUDI CREWS". HE NOTES BAC IS STILL CARRYING OUT THE ONE SIGNED IN 1973.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 17930 081725Z

2. IN GUARDIAN OF NOVEMBER 8, JOHN ANDREWS WRITES THAT

SULTAN'S VISIT COULD NET BRITAIN DEFENSE CONTRACTS WORTH THREE BILLION POUNDS. "THE CONTRACTS--FOR AIR FORCE SERVICING, AIRFIELD INSTALLATIONS, RADAR AND MISSILE NETWORKS, FACTORY COMPLEXES, LIVING ACCOMMODATION AND ROADS--WOULD BE SPREAD OVER THE NEXT 12 YEARS. THEY WOULD MEAN SECURE ORDERS FOR HUNDREDS OF COMPANIES INVOLVED IN AVIATION. ELECTRONICS AND BUILDING. IN ADDITION, THE SAUDIS WOULD BE SEEKING LONG-TERM BRITISH HELP IN EQUIPPING AND TRAINING THE SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD AND POLICE FORCE. ALREADY UNDER NEGOTIATION IS A FOUR-YEAR EXTENSION OF SAUDI ARABIA'S CURRENT CONTRACTS WITH THE BRITISH AIRCRAFT CORPORATION, THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR ALMOST 700 COMPANIES WORKING FOR SAUDI ARABIA." THESE CONTRACTS EXPIRE IN 1978. EXTENSION OF THEM WOULD BE WORTH "MORE THAN 700 MILLION POUNDS". ARTICLE QUOTES BAC SPOKESMAN AS SAYING, "SAUDI ARABIA IS THE BIGGEST SINGLE POTENTIAL MARKET FOR BRITISH INDUSTRY. WE ARE NEGOTIATING NEW CONTRACTS, BUT CANNOT GIVE DETAILS". ARTICLE NOTES THAT DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICING OF SAUDI AIR FORCE HAS BROUGHT LUCRATIVE CONTRACTS FOR LEADING BRITISH COMPANIES SUCH AS GEC, BRITISH OXYGEN, HAWKER-SIDDELEY, PLESSEY, LUCAS, LAING, WIMPEY AND CALHOUNE.

SPIERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SALES, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MISSILES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON17930
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760416-0299
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761171/aaaacjli.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: oatisao
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by oatisao>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER SULTAN
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, UK, SA, (SA'UD, SULTAN IBN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006